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DECOR TAKES SHAPE
BIG ON CURVES, BOLD ON FLORALS {page 19}

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MacKay. Nuptials

▶ Vancouver's Nazanin Afshin-Jam, seen here in Yaletown in 2007, married Defence Minister Peter MacKay Wednesday in Mexico. Afshin-Jam, the first runner-up in the 2003 Miss World competition, is a singer and activist. Story, page 10.

JEFF HODSON/METRO FILE

Defence minister weds Vancouver bride

Funding spurring legal drama

- Trial lawyers pull out from duties
- They're demanding more robust legal aid

B.C.'s trial lawyers will consider withdrawing services from gang and murder trials if Victoria doesn't boost legal-aid funding.

"It's something that nobody wants, but if it's the only way to get the government's attention, then that's how it's going to have to go," said Rishi Gill, a Vancouver criminal lawyer and co-chair of the Trial Lawyers Association of B.C.'s legal-aid action committee.

"I don't think this helps society in the short term. It's ... something we wish could be stopped, but the only way to stop it is to fund the system properly."

The first wave of duty-counsel service withdrawals has begun and will escalate in the coming months. Duty counsel typically represents people for first-time appearances and offers the first legal advice to a detained individual.

If the current job action doesn't get the attention of the attorney general's office, Gill added, they'll consider withdrawing from serious criminal cases.

Thirty-eight of the province's 70 courthouses will have no duty counsel this week, and the remaining ones are operating on a minimal duty-counsel level.

Lawyers are planning to withdraw duties for the first two weeks in February, three weeks in March and all of April, if demands for increased legal funding aren't met.

TLABC claims the provincial government generates roughly $100 million annually through taxation on legal fees, but that tax revenue is not directed to legal aid.

"It's not about lawyers trying to get money for themselves," Gill said, adding governments have cut at least $50 million in funding in the last two decades. "It's about trying to make sure that people have fair and equitable access to justice."

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS

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News in brief

Teen boy struck by dumptruck

ABBOTSFORD. A 12-year-old boy suffered serious injuries to his lower body when he was struck by a dumptruck while crossing the road in Abbotsford Wednesday morning.

A group of children were crossing Bevan Avenue at Ware Street just before 8 a.m., police said, when the boy was hit by the recycling truck as it turned left off Ware Street. METRO

Mountains reopen

SEYMOUR AND GROUSE. Good news for snowboarders and skiers as Seymour and Grouse mountain will be reopening Thursday after a one-day closure due to poor weather and high winds.

JENNIFER KWOK

Stroller plunges into river

CHILLIWACK. Two babies were lucky to be uninjured after their double stroller rolled down an embankment and plunged into the frigid Vedder River, after it got away from a mother walking the trail near the river. METRO

KENDRA WONG/METRO

▶ RCMP believe the man died from smoke inhalation inside the container, which is similar to this one in North Vancouver.

Man dies from fire inside sea container

- RCMP suspect man had been living in container for up to a year
- District of North Vancouver mayor says death symptomatic of larger issue

KENDRA WONG
VANCOUVER@METRONEWS.CA

The death of a man in a sea container on Tuesday night is raising safety concerns about the living conditions of homeless people on the North Shore.

"One of the challenges that all of Metro Vancouver faces is that there isn't enough shelter space or the (current) shelter space is not appropriate for the needs of the homeless person," said District of North Vancouver Mayor Richard Walton. "We want to make sure people are properly cared for and are safe."

On Tuesday, firefighters attended a fire in a container behind a business in the 200 block of Lloyd Avenue in North Vancouver.

Fire crews discovered the body of a 53-year-old male who has been living in the container for approximately one year. A bed, chair, hotplate and television were also found inside.

Mounties believe the fire started by a candle left burning on the chair.

"The challenges for people's physical safety … that come from homemade heating and energy sources are obviously a great concern to us," said Walton.

Cpl. Richard De Jong, spokesman for the North Vancouver RCMP, suspects the man died from smoke inhalation. An autopsy will be conducted to determine the exact cause of death.

According to the 2008 homeless count, there were 127 homeless people on the North Shore, 67 of whom live on the street.

1 news

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A notorious British crank caller serenades a TV host with a charming ode to cricket. Watch at metronews.ca/video

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Be careful who you trust

Better Business Bureau warns of scams that could cost you cash — and heartache It stresses: Be vigilant

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
@METRONEWS.CA

The Better Business Bureau is warning consumers to be more vigilant as more and more scammers are out to gain their trust.

"Scammers are turning toward well-known brands to ease concerns and falsely persuade people to give out their personal and financial information," BBB president and CEO Lynda Pasacreta said Wednesday.

Carolyn Sinclair, executive director of the B.C. Crime Prevention Association, said: "If you are a victim, (don't) be ashamed (or afraid) to come forward."

Of the 10 scams outlined, these five are among the most common.

Brand spoofing (a.k.a. phishing)

How it works: Scammers impersonate trusted companies and government organizations by sending email links to get personal and financial information.
What to do: Delete the messages and do not click on any links.

ALBERTO E. RODRIGUEZ/GETTY IMAGES

Gold-buying schemes

How it works: Last year's gold rush has resulted in consumers cashing in their gold, but sometimes receiving unfair returns.
What to do: Do your research. Choose a local appraiser who you know and trust. Get multiple appraisals and compare prices before selling.

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

Penny auctions

How it works: Users are required to set up an online account to place bids on iPads and other electronics, with each bid often costing less than a dollar. The catch: You still have to cough up cash for bids you placed, even if you didn't win the item.
What to do: Read all the fine print. Keep an eye on your credit card.

JOHN MOORE/GETTY IMAGES

Door-to-door sales

How it works: Salespeople use pressure tactics to force or frighten people into buying expensive, substandard or unneeded products and services like roofing, repairs and vacuums.
What to do: If you feel threatened, ask them to leave your property. If they refuse, call police.

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

Power-saving claims

How it works: With the introduction of smart meters by BC Hydro, more scammers are posting false or deceptive ads about energy-saving devices that don't actually work and don't meet safety standards.
What to do: Do your research before buying. Check out a company's business review online.

In Jim Mann's shoes, one tweet at a time

MATT KIELTYKA
@METRONEWS.CA

Alzheimer's and social media may seem an unlikely pairing at first.

Considering the disease is typically associated with old age while tweets are often left to younger generations, the link isn't immediately apparent.

Yet in an attempt to bridge the gap between the misunderstood disease and the wider community, a series of tweets from Alzheimer's patient Jim Mann form a crucial part of B.C.'s Alzheimer Awareness Month.

In one entry, through the @AlzheimerBC Twitter account, Jim writes, "She said three times where we were going but I don't remember. I'll ask a leading question instead. #injimsshoes."

It's this kind of firsthand entry that can help educate people, said Jean Blake, CEO of the Alzheimer Society of B.C.

"It helps people understand what it's like to have Alzheimer's and we hope it will help break down some of the ... misconceptions," she said.

Those seeking help can go to the society's website or seek out one of the 19 B.C. resource centres.

The awareness month caps off Sunday, Jan. 29, with the Investors Group Walk For Memories in 24 B.C. communities.

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Mubarak instigated killings: Prosecutor

The prosecution in the Hosni Mubarak trial said on Wednesday it has concluded that Egypt's ex-president, his security chief and six top police officers were the "actual instigators" of the killing of more than 800 protesters during last year's popular uprising.

Mubarak and his seven co-defendants are facing charges of complicity in the killings and could face the death penalty if convicted.

Wednesday's hearing coincided with the second day of voting in the third and final round of parliamentary elections that began on Nov. 28. Even before the final round, Islamists led by the Muslim Brotherhood, Egypt's largest political group, were assured a majority in the legislature.

They are likely to bolster their gains in the final round, since many of the nine provinces voting have been Islamist strongholds. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Argentina's president recovering after surgery

NATACHA PISARENKO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

▶ Cristina Fernandez

Argentina's president was awake and recovering Wednesday after a three-and-a-half-hour operation to remove her cancerous thyroid gland.

Cristina Fernandez's surgery went without complications and all her vital signs were good, her spokesman Alfredo Scoccimarro announced, prompting cheers and applause from supporters gathered outside the hospital.

Doctors had expected a routine surgery and predicted a complete cure without chemotherapy, since preoperative tests showed the cancer had not spread beyond a nodule on the right side of her thyroid gland. Vice-President Amado Boudou was put in charge before the operation, and will remain as the country's constitutional leader for 20 more days while Fernandez takes medical leave, the president's office said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Racist U.K. killers jailed for decades-old murder

Two white men sentenced for 1993 killing of black teenager

FAMILY HANDOUT/PA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Stephen Lawrence in an undated family handout photo.

A young black man lay dying in a south London bus stop. His friend called frantically for help while a gang of white teenagers who had stabbed him ran off. Two members of that gang were sentenced Wednesday for the 1993 murder of Stephen Lawrence, but three more remain at large.

Judge Colman Treacy Wednesday sentenced Gary Dobson to at least 15 years and two months in jail, and David Norris to at least 14 years and three months for the murder of the teenager, and urged police to continue looking for new leads in the case.

He told the men they were guilty of "a terrible and evil crime" committed out of blind hatred.

"A totally innocent 18-year-old youth on the threshold of a promising life was brutally cut down in the street in front of eye witnesses by a racist thuggish gang," Treacy said. "You were both members of that gang."

Police, who have been accused in the last two decades of incompetence and racism in the way they handled the murder inquiry, vowed Wednesday to continue to hunt for the remaining killers.

"The other people involved in the murder of Stephen Lawrence should not rest easily in their beds," said Bernard Hogan-Howe, commissioner of London's Metropolitan Police.

The saga of Lawrence's murder, and his parents' long quest for justice in the face of police indifference, has for many come to symbolize Britain's lingering racial trauma.

It has embarrassed Scotland Yard, which was found by an official inquiry to be guilty of systematic racism. And while Lawrence's family said it was pleased with the convictions, it said justice will not be served until all the killers face trial.

Lawrence's father Neville said the sentencing of Dobson and Norris for his son's murder was "only one step in a long, long journey."

Dobson and Norris were part of a notorious gang that terrorized part of south London, and many people told police in the days following Lawrence's death who his killers were likely to be.

But the police failed to act until Lawrence's parents held a news conference to criticize the way the police had handled the case. It was the first salvo in a long battle the Lawrence family were to fight with police and courts.

The sheer length of time it has taken to prosecute the case has taken its toll. Lawrence's parents divorced six years after his death.

And Britain's police forces still struggle to convince ethnic minorities that they handle cases with sensitivity. The parents of Indian student Anuj Bidve, who was shot and killed on a night out in Salford, northeast England on Dec. 26, complained that they learned about their son's death from Facebook before British police contacted them. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Child-porn bishop freed from jail

Lahey out on probation after serving eight months in prison Gets two-for-one credit for time served

STEVE COLLINS
OTTAWA@METRONEWS.CA
METRO CANADA IN OTTAWA

A Catholic bishop caught at the Ottawa airport with hundreds of child-porn images on his laptop was released Wednesday after receiving a sentence of 15 months — only eight of which he actually served behind bars.

Raymond Lahey, 71, formerly bishop of Antigonish, N.S., pleaded guilty eight months ago to possession of child pornography for the purposes of importation and asked to begin serving his sentence immediately.

Wednesday, Justice Kent Kirkland sentenced him to 15 months, but because he got two-for-one credit for "pre-sentencing" time served, Lahey was freed. He will be on probation for two years and registered as a sex offender for 20 years.

His lawyer, Michael Edelson, had recommended the minimum one-year sentence, but said Kirkland imposed "exactly the right sentence."

The jail time, Edelson added, is just the beginning.

Prosecutors were also satisfied with the sentence. "It'll serve to announce to others that harsh sentences are in place for those who commit such crimes, sentences which are also meted out to ensure the protection of our children," said Crown prosecutor David Elhadad.

Online porn helps cut abuse: Expert

The key witness in Raymond Lahey's sentencing is working on research he believes will show that sexual deviants who consume child pornography are less likely to abuse children now that child porn has gone online.

Dr. John Bradford, head of the division of forensic psychiatry of the University of Ottawa, has testified as an expert in numerous criminal trials and was a defence witness at Lahey's sentencing hearing.

His conclusion that Lahey was not a risk to children and, in fact, not a pedophile, despite possessing images and videos of children and teens, was a key part of the defence argument for a lesser sentence.

JESSICA SMITH IN OTTAWA

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ In this 2011 file photo, Raymond Lahey arrives at the Ottawa courthouse.

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RUNNING THIS AD IN DECEMBER WOULDN'T HAVE DONE ANY GOOD.

Truth is, everyone is nicer in December. So why can't we be just as good to each other after the holidays? Let's keep those food banks stuffed. Let's shovel the driveways and walkways of our elderly neighbours. Let's crack a smile even though the wind chill's 20 below. Let's keep our holiday lights on throughout the entire year. Let's all make a New Year's resolution to do good every single day of the year. Over the next 365 days, let's all remember that being nice is always in season. Let's try to be good all year round.

people for good.ca

L.A. arson suspect put on suicide watch

A German man and former Vancouver resident charged Wednesday for allegedly setting a string of fires across Los Angeles on New Year's weekend has been put on suicide watch, a law enforcement official said.

Harry Burkhart, 24, has been in custody since Monday, when he was arrested in Hollywood. Burkhart's mother Dorothee Burkhart said in court Tuesday that her son is mentally ill.

He has refused to co-operate with investigators since his arrest on suspicion of starting dozens of car fires in and around the city that caused an estimated $3 million US in damage.

Authorities said they believe he was angry over his mother's legal troubles and went on an arson rampage a day after she made an initial court appearance last week.

Burkhart is also under investigation in his home country of Germany for a house fire north of Frankfurt days before he travelled to the U.S. in October.

The fire at the house, which belonged to the Burkhart family, has been ruled an arson, Marburg prosecutors' spokeswoman Annemarie Wied said.

Burkhart did not live in the area, but his name surfaced as a suspect after he filed an insurance claim shortly after the fire, Wied said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ In this still photo, taken from video released on Jan. 2 by OnScene.tv, arson suspect Harry Burkhart is arrested in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles.

Mother in trouble

- Harry Burkhart's mother, Dorothee Burkhart, is charged in Germany with 19 counts of fraud, including failing to pay for a 2004 breast augmentation surgery and pilfering security deposits from renters.
- A Frankfurt court spokesman said Dorothee Burkhart will go on trial for the fraud charges once she is extradited.

Canadian's killing to be fully probed: Cops

Mexican police have promised a thorough investigation into the shooting death of a B.C. man during an apparent home invasion.

Police say Robin Wood, 67, of Salt Spring Island, B.C., was killed Tuesday when he stood up to two suspects who tried to rob a friend's home in Melaque, south of Puerto Vallarta.

Wood was taken to hospital after the attack, where he died of a gunshot wound. THE CANADIAN PRESS

MacKay weds girlfriend in Mexico

One of Ottawa's most eligible bachelors is now officially off the market.

Defence Minister Peter MacKay quietly married his girlfriend Nazanin Afshin-Jam at a private ceremony in Mexico on Wednesday.

He released a statement on his constituency website announcing the nuptials, which took place in front of family and friends.

"Since coming into my life, many of you have met Nazanin on her many visits to Nova Scotia. She is the most important person in my life and over the coming months, Nazanin and I look forward to spending more time at home in Central Nova and sharing our happiness with all of you," said MacKay.

Afshin-Jam, 32, is a human-rights activist and president of Stop Child Executions, which tries to draw attention to the young people who are on death row in Iran.

MacKay, who has been often voted the sexiest male MP in polls by the Parliamentary newspaper The Hill Times, has been engaged before but never married. Lisa Merrithew, who is the daughter of Gerald Merrithew, another former Mulroney-era cabinet minister, was his first fiancée, but their relationship ended seven years ago. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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January

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While we always love to share student success stories, on occasion one really stands out, surprising even us. This year we want to recognize ***Marc Ramsey*** *for providing our student success story of the year. Marc hit the ground running when he started working with MMG last spring. He has completed three flips including a high-rise luxury condo and a house that has been fully rehab-ed. Even more impressive is his most recent accomplishment.Marc just purchased a 44 unit apartment complex with three separate buildings for a mere $150,000. Once the rehab is completed, Marc will still be under $500,000. This will give him a stabilized asset of one MILLION DOLLARS with a NOI of over $200,000 per year. We cannot express how proud we are of Marc's accomplishment and are thrilled that MMG was able to help him realize his financial dreams.*

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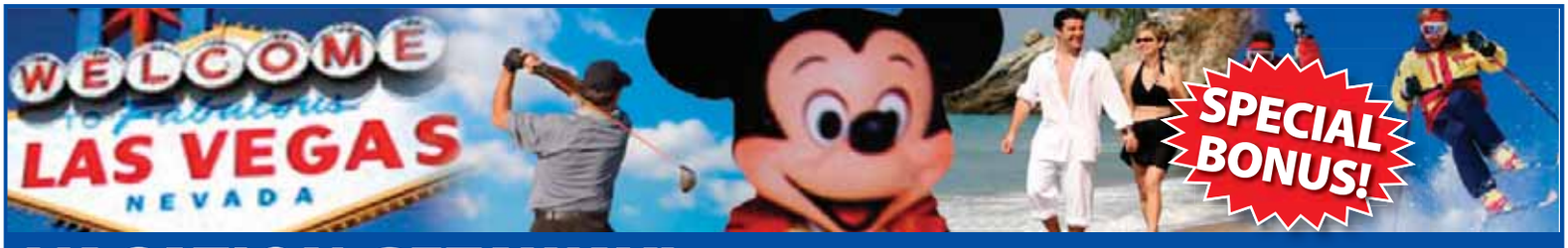

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JACQUES BOISSINOT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ This photo taken in December shows the Lab Chrysotile asbestos-mining site in Black Lake, Que.

Banruptcy to save jobs: CEO

Mining union is surprised by announcement, but remains hopeful

The head of one of Canada's last two remaining asbestos mines said Wednesday that declaring bankruptcy is the only way the cash-strapped operation has a chance of saving its workers' jobs.

Simon Dupere, president and CEO of Quebec-based LAB Chrysotile, said in an interview that he's confident many of the 350 jobs at the mine will be saved.

Dupere said the company's current financial situation made it impossible to continue operations.

He said the shutdown of its Lac d'amiante du Canada mine in Thetford Mines last fall didn't stem costs and there has been no revenue to deal with them. "We have a problem with fixed costs and this will be resolved with the (bankruptcy)," Dupere said

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Germany, Portugal borrow to ease crisis

Europe won some further modest respite from its debt crisis Wednesday as Germany and Portugal became the latest countries to borrow with relative ease ahead of a hazard-filled few weeks for the eurozone.

Both countries saw their borrowing costs dip at auctions, in a further sign that investors may have temporarily put some of their concerns to one side at the start of the new year in the wake of fairly buoyant U.S. economic data.

Germany managed to sell $5.3 billion US in its benchmark 10-year bonds Wednesday. But demand barely covered the bonds on offer. Portugal paid a lower interest rate to borrow $1.3 billion in three-month treasury bills.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. WEDNESDAY

TSX	Dollar
+ 18.04 (12,226.47)	- 0.13¢ (98.78¢ US)
OIL	**Natural gas**
+ 0.26¢ US ($103.22 US)	$3.10 (+ 10¢)
	Gold
	$1,612.70 (+ $12.20)

Yahoo picks its new CEO

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

▶ Thompson

Yahoo Inc. has named Scott Thompson, president of eBay Inc.'s PayPal division, as its new CEO. The struggling Internet company, which announced its choice Wednesday, has been without a permanent CEO since early September.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

More work for smaller payoff?

PENSIONS. The state of Canadian pensions in 2011 is likely to convince more employers to shift burdens to employees this year and force an increase in retirement ages, according to pension consulting firm Towers Watson. The firm said that low interest rates and plunging stock markets weighed heavily on defined-benefit pension plans.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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OF MICE AND THE MAN WHO LOVES THEM

HE SAYS ...

JOHN MAZEROLLE
METRO

I think I love the mouse in my apartment.

It's not the love between a man and a woman, exactly, because I don't know its gender. But it feels right.

It is a forbidden love, frowned upon by the world, and it is a love brought about by fate: Of all the drywall joints in all the townhouses in all the world, it chewed into mine.

And if loving something means wanting it to be free, then I'll squeak it from the rooftops — I love my mouse.

Don't misunderstand: I realize that mice are disease-ridden vermin, which is why Mickey always wore white gloves — for safety's sake.

I'm aware that it's hard to endorse a creature that has used millions of years of evolutionary knowledge to perfect the art of pooping on your counter top.

And, personally, I'm annoyed that the little guy can find enough food in my apartment to survive even though I can't seem to, no matter how many times I open the fridge.

"And, personally, I'm annoyed that the little guy can find enough food in my apartment to survive even though I can't seem to, no matter how many times I open the fridge."

But, despite all that, I must love the mouse.

Why? Because I can't deal with the alternative.

As a journalist, I often worry that I'm jaded. Cover enough accidents and murders and Vic Toews, and eventually you get so cynical you can talk like this to a stranger: "I know this is a difficult time, but how did you FEEL when your dog fell into the thresher? Oh, don't cry. Please wait until the camera gets here."

But that worry evaporated last winter. I had a mouse back then, you see.

And so I bought glue traps, because the packaging said it was "humane" and it showed a cartoon mouse looking annoyed in the glue, as if it were going to miss its dinner with Speedy, Mickey and Mighty. Why, this was going to be fun!

Well, I don't want to get too gruesome about what happened, but the Gadhafi family would have been appalled. While the mouse squeaked at the same volume as the girl being eaten at the beginning of Jaws, I frantically ran outside with him, promising freedom.

I poured water on him — that's what the packaging said to do — and watched hopefully (run little buddy!) as he stopped moving entirely. Yes, I waterboarded the mouse.

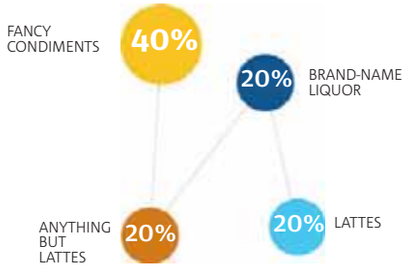
And as I stood over his lifeless body, I vowed then and there that I would only love all the helpless rodents of the world. So, as you can see, I need to love the new mouse.

And if I must kill him, I will at least talk to its family, using all my compassion and empathy. Because I know this is a difficult time.

Read more of John Mazerolle's columns at metronews.ca/hesays

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

The UN says we're set for another volatile year in food prices. What are you willing to give up if you have to pay more for dinner?



Local tweets

- **@Southsiders:** #MLS also stands for My Life Sucks, apparently. Makes for an interesting twitter search.
- **@VanCanucks:** For his tenacious play, #Canucks forward Jannik Hansen is being compared to nature's most fearless creature. bit.ly/ymA9Ge
- **@trevor_linden:** Site visit this morning at the new Club 16 TL Fitness on the seawall at the Vancouver Convention Center pic.twitter.com/L557vdx5
- **@sixbeamers:** According to Sportsnet, Lions GM Wally Buono has confirmed that Barron Miles will become defensive backs coach of the Sask. Roughriders.
- **@Derek_Spalding:** Powerful storm batters Vancouver Island, knocking out power, cancelling ferries and causing minor floods bit.ly/zRABjh #Hydro #YCD
- **@b_nagel:** I probably eat twice as much food back home than I do when In Vancouver. I'm not certain but I don't think that's much of an exaggeration.
- **@Fedforlife:** I just saw a mosquito! Vancouver winters are great!

Daily Zoom

NATASHA HARTH / REX FEATURES

Art attack ... by kids

Kids' stickers create artwork

QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA. If you want that statement-making design to jazz up your home interior, then perhaps look no further!

One artist has created a work where children can express themselves using coloured stickers. Yayoi Kusama's Obliteration Room is currently on display at the Queensland Art Gallery.

METRO WORLD NEWS

"With just one polka-dot, nothing can be achieved."

YAYOI KUSAMA'S CANDID REMARKS ON THE MEANING OF HER ART

Boring room or blank canvas

INTERACTIVE ART. Curators suggest this sterile white room is a critique of everyday life drained of colour. But at the same time they say this colourless space acts "as a blank canvas to be invigorated — or 'obliterated,' changing measurably over time as the dots accumulate as a result of thousands of collaborators."

METRO WORLD NEWS

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2 scene

Donald Trump

Mob boss widow Victoria Gotti, singer Clay Aiken and IndyCar champ Michael Andretti are on tap for the next edition of NBC's Celebrity Apprentice. Host Donald Trump announced the new batch of contenders this week.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NY-based grocery yanks, then restores, Alec Baldwin ads after support for actor.

When PuSh comes to shove

Get inspired at PuSh International Performing Arts Festival which kicks off later this month

BACKSTAGE PASS

GRAEME MCRANOR
METRO VANCOUVER

My least favourite part of the Holiday Season is paying for it. Yet January continues its annoying habit of arriving on time every year. And unless you believe shoddy Mayan predictions, it will continue to do so for many years to come.

There are a couple of ways we can handle this anomaly: pull the sheets over our heads until March or plow forward with a renewed, re-energized sense of purpose.

Perhaps you're looking for a helpful nudge to get moving again.

A supportive shove.

A push of positivity.

You will not find that here.

However, it should be noted that, in a couple of weeks, the PuSh International Performing Arts Festival kicks off, and you'd be hard-pressed to find a better place to get inspired.

Added bonus: if you go to enough shows, you can blow off that Christmas gym membership for another few weeks.

It looks like Veda Hille and Bill Richardson found inspiration on the Internet. Their new production, called Do You Want What I Have Got? A Craigslist Cantata, is billed as personal ads set to music and features songs 300 Stuffed Penguins, Chilli Eating Buddy, Decapitated Dolls, and more.

BILL PECHET/ARTS CLUB

▶ Bill Richardson and Veda Hille star in the Arts Club Theatre Company's A Craigslist Cantata beginning Jan. 19 at the Revue Stage.

Directed by Amiel Gladstone, it stars J. Cameron Barnett, Dmitry Chepovetsky, Bree Greig, Hille, Selina Martin and Barry Mirochnick.

If you've ever wondered what the works of Dostoyevsky would be like set to music (and, really, who hasn't?), don't miss the Neworld and Vancouver Moving Theatre production of The Idiot. This is the same creative collaboration that premiered Crime and Punishment at the 2005 PuSh Festival. Directed by James Fagan Tait.

The PuSh International Performing Arts Festival starts Jan. 17 and runs until Feb. 4 at various venues around Vancouver. Do You Want What I Have Got? A Craigslist Cantata runs from Jan. 19 to Feb. 11 at the Arts Club Theatre Company's Revue Stage. The Idiot runs from Jan. 20 to 29 at the Frederic Wood Theatre at UBC. More information at Pushfestival.ca and Artsclub.com.

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Horrors of high school

My Babysitter's a Vampire comes to Canada It's a supernatural spin on the trials of being a teen

HANDOUT

The series My Babysitter's a Vampire is based on a TV movie of the same name.

Debuting in Canada this week is Teletoon's My Babysitter's a Vampire, a younger-skewing take on the monsters-meets-hormones genre also seen in the Twilight film franchise, the campy Space comedy Todd and the Book of Pure Evil, and CTV Two's The Vampire Diaries.

Toronto-bred star Matthew Knight, who plays earnest 14-year-old Ethan, says he hopes young viewers can learn a lesson or two as his show draws over-the-top parallels between the eternal battle of good and evil and the trials of growing up. "I kind of feel like it makes kids ... feel like their (problems) are not the end of the world and they can get through it," 17-year-old Knight says of the show's weekly supernatural calamities.

The series' over-the-top hijinks — which include resurrecting dead family pets and navigating a suspicious school blood drive — are all in service of putting common teen anxieties into perspective, adds co-star Atticus Mitchell, who plays Ethan's trouble-making best friend Benny. "You don't know what the end of the world is until you hit that bad point in your life when you're trying to get with your crush and it's like, 'Oh, I love you.' And all of a sudden — 'What? There are vampires! Zombies!"' says 18-year-old Mitchell, from Toronto. "That's the end of the world, OK?"

The new series is based on the TV movie of the same name, which centred on the awkward Ethan, his precocious little sister Jane and his mischievous pal Benny.

In that 2010 comedy, billed as Teletoon's first original live action feature, Ethan's hopes of shedding his geek status are thwarted when his mom decides he's not mature enough to watch Jane and hires a babysitter from his school.

Ethan is mortified when it turns out to be his long-time crush Sarah, played by Vanessa Morgan, who just happens to be a newly formed vampire. "It's definitely a little bit lighter in the way that it's shot and the way the characters deal with it and just more family friendly," says Knight.

My Babysitter's a Vampire debuts Thursday on Teletoon.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Celebrity tweets

@Joan_Rivers

This is the only time of year when I'm jealous of atheists. They don't waste their time taking down all the Christmas decorations.

@bobsaget

Today is the first day of the rest of your life. And if that doesn't work out for you, Tomorrow is the first day of the rest of your life...

@mradamscott

The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo is super funny.

@AmandaBynes

Not tweeting is the new tweeting.

Timberlake engaged?

Singer proposes to Jessica Biel on top of mountain, according to sources

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

▶ Jessica Biel and Justin Timberlake

After quietly getting back together in 2011, Justin Timberlake and Jessica Biel have reportedly gotten engaged just as quietly.

Sources tells Us Weekly that Timberlake popped the question on top of a mountain in Jackson, Wyoming, during a snowboarding vacation.

"Justin knows how much she loves snowboarding and the mountains, so it was the perfect place," the source says.

"He knew it was the right time to propose." The pair broke up briefly last year, and "when they reunited, they had a conversation about taking the next step," the source says. METRO

Running back to The Running Man?

Maria Shriver

After reconnecting with estranged husband Arnold Schwarzenegger over the holidays, Maria Shriver is reportedly reconsidering her planned divorce from the former California governor, according to OK! Magazine.

"She's definitely having second thoughts about going ahead with the divorce," says a source close to the family, who adds that Shriver's friends aren't too pleased with the latest development: "All her friends are up in arms that she's considering a reunion," the source says.

"She's close friends with Oprah (Winfrey), who would never encourage her to go back to a man who fathered a child with the housekeeper." METRO

Mendes hangs with Gosling's mom

▶ Ryan Gosling

If there were any doubts that Ryan Gosling and Eva Mendes were getting serious, their recent behaviour should put them to rest.

While visiting New York, Gosling reportedly took Mendes to the movies along with his mother, according to People magazine.

"They all hung out and went to the movies together," a source says.

"Ryan and Eva seemed very happy."

And they seemed even happier before arriving in New York, while still at the airport in Los Angeles.

"They kept kissing and hugging while they waited to board their flight," says a source.

"Eva looked gorgeous and kept smiling." METRO

Cannon suffers kidney failure

Nick Cannon was hospitalized this week in Colorado for kidney failure, wife Mariah Carey revealed on Twitter. "Please pray for Nick as he's fighting to recover from a mild kidney failure," Carey wrote in a post accompanied by a photo of the pair in a hospital bed. The singer noted that a visit to the hospital seems to be an annual tradition for the couple: "Last year it was me attached to the machines," she wrote, referring to the birth of their twins, "and Nick was there with me through it." METRO

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SHOPPERS DRUG MART

Dewey in the dark winter

It's January and it's cold and dry Yes this is obvious, but the fixes for your chapped skin may not be Try these tips from dermatologists to save your skin from the rough season ahead

ISTOCK

Use a conditioner in your hair more frequently during the winter.

Moisturizing is so important this time of year because it protects the outer layer from winter's wrath while retaining natural moisture from within.

Don't assume that drinking water or replacing fluids internally is enough to keep your skin healthy during cold weather.

Stay away from products that contain detergents because they can remove protective, essential oils.

Showers

Don't take extra hot showers. As much as you want the comfort of that heat when it's chilly, there's less moisture in the air during winter and hot showers can further dehydrate your skin, says Dr. Neil Sadick, clinical professor of dermatology at Weill Cornell Medical College in New York.

"Make showers as tepid as you can tolerate," he says. If you can't stand the chill, find a space heater safe for bathroom use.

Hair and nails

Don't ignore hair and nails. They're made of the same compounds as skin and crack in similar fashion, says Dr. Alicia Zalka, a dermatology professor at Yale. "I don't think people realize that when nails split it's 90 per cent from lack of proper moisture." B vitamin supplements can improve skin, hair and nails during winter.

"They're better for the skin when ingested, rather than when you put them on the skin topically," Zalka says.

"If you've got the driest of dry skin, the best defence for that is a couple of days of plain old Vaseline."
DR. ALICIA ZALKA, ASSOCIATE CLINICAL PROFESSOR OF DERMATOLOGY AT YALE

"Humidify the air in your home, especially in your bedroom so that healing and repair can take place while you sleep. "
DR. DAVID ORENTREICH
CLINIQUE DERMATOLOGIST

Sunblock

Don't forget sunblock. It's just as important during winter as it is in summer, experts say, especially during winter sports like skiing at high altitude.

"In the winter it feels cold because very little infrared light reaches the earth," Dr. David Orentreich says. "The opposite is true in the summer. However, in the winter ultraviolet light is 90 per cent as strong as it is in the summer but since we can't feel or see it we mistakenly think it's absent, too."

Application of a broad-band screen once a day should suffice, Sadick says. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

3 life

Style pick

Get the boot

A nearly century-old hunting boot is catching on with a younger generation that sees the utilitarian footwear as hip.L.L Bean's familiar duck boot with leather uppers and rubber soles has become something of a fashion statement owing to its newfound popularity on college campuses, the company says.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Red carpet starlets ready to give the time to do 1950s style up right

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Jeanne Space

In this hectic modern world, Twitter has become a cool and succinct way of communicating. It allows me to be accessible, instantly speak my mind, and connects me with all kinds of people. Whether it's a fashion question, or you just want to comment on life's bigger picture, I'd love to hear from you.

@Jeanne_Beker:
Any suggestions for getting back into the WORK mode? Vacation was over too quickly. Now it's time to deal with LIFE.

- **@TheStyleStrut:** Meditate, coffee, exercise - not necessarily in that order!
- **@Jeanne_Beker:** Okay! Think I'll start with coffee....
- **@MeaganArtisan:** Buy a new lipstick, or peice of clothing & get excited to show it off. That always helps me to get on schedule. ;)❤
- **@Jeanne_Beker:** That sounds like a nice quick fix! (And shopping is always good for the economy too...)
- **@TheImageis:** book another vacation as a goal to work towards ... It's the light at the end of the tunnel - :)
- **@Jeanne_Beker:** Now THAT is a very cool idea

▶ @Jeanne_Beker: Skiing the Sierra Nevada, in Spain!!! (Dec. 30)

**TUNE INTO FASHION TELEVISION EVERY SUNDAY AT 5:30 P.M. (ET) ON CTV.
JEANNE BEKER'S FINDING MYSELF IN FASHION (PENGUIN) IS AVAILABLE IN BOOKSTORES NATIONWIDE.**

How to 'make it work' after losing weight

WEIGHT WATCHERS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Tim Gunn, left, helped Weight Watchers contest winner Abby Dale shop for new clothes after losing 92 pounds.

There are people out there who really do stick to their New Year's resolution and take off those last 10 pounds – or more.

But sometimes, says fashion guru Tim Gunn, they don't know how to show it off, or even find clothes that fit.

"Once you've reached your goal, it's time to go shopping or at least alter your old clothing. ... My mantra about 'getting' fashion is silhouette, proportion and fit. When they are in balance, you'll look great in whatever you're wearing," he says.

When women are in a transitional phase, he suggests a wrap-style top or dress, which basically adjusts itself to changes in your body.

He'd also steer people toward V necklines instead of a crewneck or boatneck. V necks lead one's eye up to the wearer's face, he explains, which can make a flattering line.

Pants often can be taken in to accommodate a smaller size because they have mostly straight seams, Gunn explains, but jackets and blazers are trickier for a tailor to fix if shoulder seams start to creep down the arm. Men especially have an issue with collars.

The least flattering look? Clothes that are baggy, says Gunn, the Project Runway mentor and soon-to-be host of the daytime talk show The Revolution.

The more fabric there is, the more of you there is to look at." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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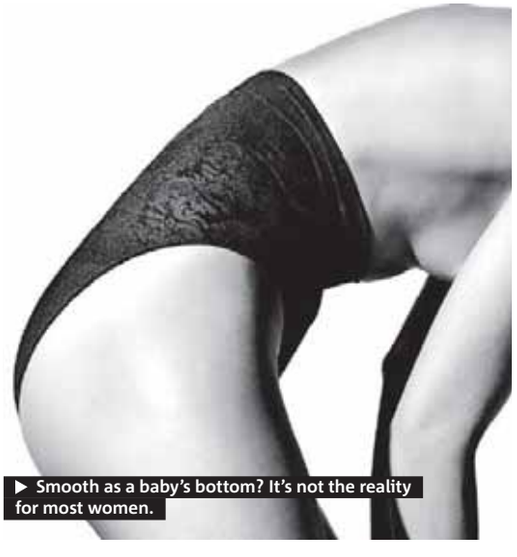
Stand firm when it comes to cellulite

THE KIT

By Deborah Fulsang

SCOPE BEAUTY



▶ Smooth as a baby's bottom? It's not the reality for most women.

"Eighty-five per cent of women have cellulite and the 15 per cent that don't, think they do," says Dr. Shimon Eckhouse, The Kit's expert for face advisor. His company explores light-based technology to target and treat the dreaded orange-peel skin.

No wonder the industry is booming. One new report claimed sales for cellulite products hit the $11.8-million mark last year in the United States. Safe to say the category is healthy here in Canada, too.

But beware, says Dr. Lisa Kellett, a dermatologist in Toronto, there's no magic bullet. "Topicals are not drugs. They're not going to go down to a level that they're going to get rid of cellulite," she says. "They might plump up the skin temporarily, much like if you went home and took a loofah to your skin and scrubbed at it. You could cause swelling in the skin to improve the appearance."

The bottom line on cellulite? "There is no cure." You can, however, make surface improvements. And for many, of course, appearances count.

Tip: Be sure to exfoliate before applying your chosen smoothing cream. A good scrub preps the skin to allow active ingredients to perform at their max.

DROP INTO THEKIT.CA FOR BEAUTY INSIDE AND OUT.

Hot new decor trends

Design expert Karl Lohnes tells us what's new and fresh for 2012

DESIGN CENTRE

KARL LOHNES
HOME@METRONEWS.CA

Trends change yearly. Here's four of the most popular ones for 2012.

LARGE FLORAL PATTERNS

Flowers are back; they are bright and big and look modern.

Add a large floral print to just a headboard in the bedroom, the back panel of a chair or Euro-sized pillow shams in the living room for a burst of colour this year.

Up-cycling

Last year we painted old dressers trendy colours, and this year it's about investing in good stuff. Find an antique chair and upholster it with a cashmere/wool blend fabric, have a custom lampshade made or add luxe trims to a set of old velvet drapes. It's the small investments that will offer up classic style.

CB2 STORES

▶ Flower sutra artwork, CB2 stores

ANTHROPOLOGIE

▶ Curvy-lined furniture helps to round out a room. Amelie sofa in blazing poppies fabric; $3,300, Anthropologie

CURVY FURNITURE

Low, deep and lounge-like was all the rage last year for sofas and chairs.

For those with enough strength (or a crane) to get out of these you can say goodbye and sit on something more comfortable.

Traditional style is making a return and curvy-lined furniture is feeling most welcome after two decades of square-edged, hotel-inspired furnishings. Look for the classic camel-back shaped sofas and organic shaped side tables to round out your rooms.

BENJAMIN MOORE PAINTS

▶ Orange tones will dominate wall colours for 2012. Massada; Benjamin Moore Paints

ORANGE

Last year we said goodbye to the suburban beiges and honey browns and replaced it with cooler tones like sea glass and pale greys. This year it's all about being optimistic; happy colours and every shade of orange is topping the list for paint colours. From pale rust to sherbert tangerine, this citrus colour is topping 2012's list for painted walls.

FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF KARL'S 2012 DECOR TRENDS VISIT METRONEWS.CA

CONTAIN YOUR LIFE'S CHAOS

CHARLES THE BUTLER

ASKCHARLES THEBUTLER@METRONEWS.CA

FOR MORE, VISIT CHARLES MACPHERSON.COM

Dear Charles the Butler, What is a good new year's resolution for something I can do within my house? Suzy Homemaker

Dear Suzy Homemaker:

After giving this very question some thought just a few weeks ago, I personally decided to call 2012 "the year of the container".

So what does this mean? Well for those of you who know me, I love to use containers to hold things.

Containers keep my cupboards as organized and clean as possible.

For example, my shoe shine kit has a small container all of its own — it holds everything I could ever want or need to do with my shoes, including extra shoe laces.

My wrapping paper, last season's clothing and even new toiletries are all in containers.

So my suggestion for you is to re-organize your personal life with clean well-organized containers that are all labelled!

This helps keep cupboards organized and offers you easy access when you need your important stuff!

HAVE A QUESTION? SEND AN EMAIL TO ASKCHARLESTHEBUTLER@METRONEWS.CA

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The White Box: Yay or Nay?

Sparse, stark white homes might make for pretty design blog pictures but are they fun to live in? We weigh the pros and cons

METRO/KH

Yay

All white decor makes it very clear when something has gotten dirty, making it that much easier for OCD types to keep things nice and spotless.

If there's any truth to the philosophy that one's living space affects the mental one, the clean, minimal sensibility should lead to some clear thinking.

It's timeless, the stark white gallery look never goes out of style.

The monochrome thing usually reads cool and arty, which will impress your friends.

Design tip: *Try adding warmth and depth to your rooms by playing with varying shades of ivory and working in texture through items such as sheepskin rugs. Or use a strategically placed table, bed or chairs in bold, primary colours.*

Nay

There's no hiding those tough to remove red wine stains.

You'll have to become one of those people who make guests take their shoes off before entering.

It can look kind of boring, unless you splurge on really wild, design-y looking things.

The monochrome thing can also read cold, clinical and aloof. Plus, your friends will be too afraid to touch anything.

5 BEST HOME BLOGS OF 2011

THE COVATEUR
Thecovateur.com

- This year-old blog looks inside the homes and wardrobes of fashion types.

DESIGNSPONGE
Designsponge.com

- This global blog gives a sense of design trends in Europe and America.

BACKYARD BILL
Backyardbill.com

- A look inside the spaces of the world-famous and Brooklyn-based trendsters.

EMMAS DESIGNBLOGG
Emmas.blogg.se

- Home design through a distinctly Swedish lens.

RUMMAGE
Rummage.typepad.com

- Offers lots of crafty eye candy and DIY projects.

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A new meal for a new year

In her cookbook My Father's Daughter, movie star turned domestic goddess Gwyneth Paltrow shares a delicious and healthy recipe

White bean soup with kale

Ingredients:

- 3 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 1 fennel bulb, stems and fronds removed for another use, bulb thinly sliced
- 1 large onion, peeled and thinly sliced
- Pinch crushed chillies
- ¼ tsp dried oregano
- ¼ tsp freshly ground black pepper
- 410 g can cannelloni beans, rinsed and drained
- Vegetable stock
- Coarse salt
- 1 bunch kale, stems discarded and leaves torn into bite-sized pieces

For more recipes, please visit metronews.ca/food

Preparation:

1 Heat the olive oil in a large pot over medium heat. Add the fennel and cook for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add the onion and garlic. Lower heat and cook for half an hour, stirring here and there. A little colour is OK, but you want the vegetables to get soft and sweet. Add crushed chillies, oregano and pepper and cook for a minute. Add the beans and stock, bring to the boil, lower to a simmer, add salt to taste and let cook on low heat for 1 hour. Stir in the kale leaves and let cook for seven minutes. Ladle into four bowls, drizzle with oil and serve.

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4 sports

Quoted

"I apologize to everyone involved."

NEW YORK RANGERS COACH JOHN TORTORELLA, WHO WAS FINED $30,000 US BY THE NHL WEDNESDAY FOR CRITICAL COMMENTS HE MADE TOWARDS THE OFFICIATING AFTER SUNDAYS WINTER CLASSIC.

Wild. Tamed

▶ Vancouver's Andrew Ebbett tries to knock down the puck against Minnesota at Rogers Arena on Wednesday night.

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Luongo celebrates longevity milestone with shutout

Vancouver's Roberto Luongo celebrated his 700th NHL game by blanking the Minnesota Wild 3-0 on Wednesday as the Canucks took the overall lead in the league standings.
Luongo blocked 28 shots for his second shutout of the year — both over the Wild. The Canucks got goals from Daniel Sedin and Alex Burrows while Manny Malhotra fired into an empty net in the final minute.
Vancouver (25-13-3) has 53 points, one more than Western Conference rival Chicago and the New York Rangers atop the Eastern Conference.

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Still something to play for

Canada tries to shake off disappointment of loss to Russia and focus on beating Finland

The disappointment was still in the eyes of the Canadian players a day after their semifinal loss at the world junior hockey championship.

As they prepared to play Finland for the bronze medal, furrowed brows and grim expressions indicated Tuesdays 6-5 loss to Russia was still on their minds.

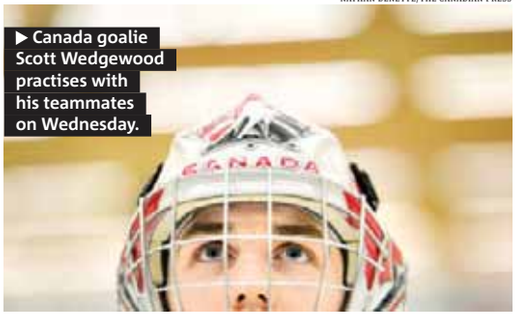
But they will have to let it go for Canada to avoid finishing out of the medals at the tournament for the first time in 14 years.

Finland, a dark horse which has improved since the competition got underway, will certainly be motivated to win bronze Thursday after falling 8-1 to Canada in the tournament-opener in Edmonton.

Russia will play for it second straight title in Thursday's gold-medal game against Sweden.

As per his usual practice, Canadian head coach Don Hay wouldn't reveal whether it will be Scott Wedgewood or Mark Visentin in Canada's net Thursday because he tells his starting goalie the night before the game.

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ Canada goalie Scott Wedgewood practises with his teammates on Wednesday.

"They got a couple of breaks early that helped them get ahead of us and we kind of didn't know how to deal with it."
SCOTT WEDGEWOOD

While Wedgewood admitted he was sore after Russian defender Alex Khokhlachev crashed into him in the second period Tuesday, he said he would be able to play Thursday.

"You've got to win a game to get a medal now," Wedgewood said Wednesday. "We've got to take pride in that and it still means something to us.

"Ten years from now looking back, you go into that game and don't give it your all and you walk away with nothing ... it's better to have something."

Without the adrenaline that a possible gold medal brings, the Canadians were feeling the slings and arrows of the tournament.

The upper-body injury Scott Harrington suffered in the preliminary round kept him out of Wednesday's practice. Hay didn't sound sure the defenceman would be able to play Thursday.

What's more, Canada will be down to 11 forwards for Thursday's game after faceoff specialist Boone Jenner was suspended for spearing Russian captain Evgeni Kuznetsov in the second period of the semifinal.

In sifting through the wreckage of Canada's gold-medal hopes, the host country's meltdown in the second period versus Russia stands out.

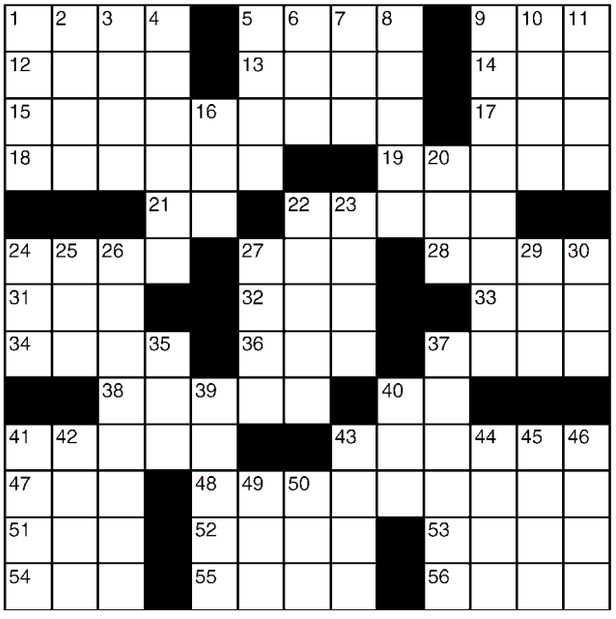
A loss of composure left Canada short-staffed and allowed Russia to score their fifth goal on a power play, which came back to haunt Canada in the third period.

"When players get frustrated they do things they regret," Hay said. "Whether its misconduct penalties, major penalties or just selfish penalties, you usually regret those type of penalties.

"When you can play with determination, you don't have time to get frustrated. Thats what we did in the third. In the second, we played with a little more frustration because it wasn't going our way."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Crossword



Across

1 Employer
5 Tulip, at first
9 Pair
12 Pulitzer winner James
13 Sandwich treat
14 Disencumber
15 Ornamentations
17 Fuss
18 Soap opera, e.g.
19 Bank job, e.g.
21 Lumberjack's need
22 India's first PM
24 Picnic invaders
27 "30 Rock" star
28 Recognize
31 Round Table address
32 Director Spike —
33 Dead heat
34 Thick chunk
36 Toss in
37 Snitched
38 High heels, often
40 Battery size
41 Void
43 Big step
47 Evening hour, in a way
48 Dulcimer's shape
51 Egos' counterparts
52 Medal earner
53 Unsigned (Abbr.)
54 Ignited
55 Cushiony
56 Singer Mouskouri

Down

1 Crazy
2 Shrek, e.g.
3 Burn some
4 Brownish photo hues
5 Reach 212 degrees F
6 Grecian vessel
7 Journey segment
8 "The Garden of Earthly Delights" painter
9 Decorative quilt design
10 Broad
11 Smell
16 Peace (Lat.)
20 Noah's craft
22 Has to have
23 Watched
24 Ninny
25 Zilch
26 Member of a silent religious order
27 Envelope part
29 OPEC export
30 Tie the knot
35 However
37 Burroughs hero
39 Legends
40 Noshed
41 Satanic
42 Calf-length
43 Name for a Dalmatian
44 New Rochelle school
45 "My Heart Will Go On" singer
46 Writer Ferber
49 — Speedwagon
50 Remark from 43-Down

Yesterday's answer

B	O	L	A		N	A	B		B	E	T	H
A	K	I	N		E	M	U		A	R	I	A
B	A	N	K	R	U	P	T		Z	U	L	U
E	Y	E	L	E	T		C	H	A	P	E	L
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S	A	D		D	A	M		W	R	I	S	T
P	R	I	G		L	I	S		S	O	L	E
A	I	S	L	E		A	P	E		N	Y	C
		R	A	M	P		A	S	H			
M	O	U	S	S	E		R	A	I	S	E	S
A	L	P	S		A	B	R	U	P	T	L	Y
R	I	T	E		C	O	O		P	A	I	N
T	O	S	S		H	O	W		O	G	E	E

Sudoku

9					5		6	
			9	1			7	
	3		6					2
	9	5		2				
4			7		6			5
				8		9	3	
7					9		4	
	1			6	7			
	2		8					6

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer

8	2	7	3	1	6	4	5	9
6	9	5	7	2	4	8	1	3
4	3	1	9	8	5	2	6	7
2	6	9	5	7	3	1	8	4
5	1	3	4	9	8	6	7	2
7	4	8	2	6	1	9	3	5
9	5	6	1	4	7	3	2	8
3	8	2	6	5	9	7	4	1
1	7	4	8	3	2	5	9	6

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, online at metronews.ca/kiss.

I love you Daniel Pikel, thanks for being an amazing man! Peyton & I are very lucky to have you in our lives! cant wait for the rest of our lives together baby! <3 :) **CRYSTAL**

Dear liz, I love you so much, these games you're playing needs to stop! life is too short my darling. you need to start embracing life more and take more chances. if you love me then tell me you fool.....Or you leave me no choice but to go after your sister LOL..... **MARK**

Him, Chillaxin with mah tallboyz! whoo hoo! Wahhhhhhhhh! feels great! you're there am here...was a superb day! See, bouncing back into the saddle. Whatever! Should've turned out da other way. oh well, life goes on! **ERR**

Today 8°/3° Showers 40%
Friday 6°/3° Showers
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Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 You will find yourself caught up in some sort of feud today and being a pugnacious Aries you will probably quite enjoy it.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 The best kind of work is teamwork, so join forces with like-minded people.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 You have taken on too many duties and responsibilities of late, both at home and at work, and need to cut back if you are to avoid exhausting yourself.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 You need a deeper, more serious relationship.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 Try to remember that it's not all about money and status. Love counts too.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 This is one of those times when you must take risks and push boundaries. If you don't you may look back one day and regret it.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 Like most Libras you rarely get angry, but you will surprise a few people today.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 Start early, finish late and focus only on tasks that take you closer to your long-term goals.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Remember that co-operation always makes things easier.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Life is always a gamble, that's one of the things that makes it so interesting.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 You seem to believe that someone in a position of authority is plotting against you.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. Mars in your opposite sign is bringing a number of challenges, not least in the guise of people who oppose your ideas and beliefs. But what of it? If your beliefs are correct you have nothing to worry about.

SALLY BROMPTON

Caption contest

DAVE CHIDLEY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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• Alcohol + Aluminum Free
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Tell your friends, family or that secret crush just how you feel with a Metro Kiss...then share it with the world through Facebook and Twitter.
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DON'T GET RIPPED OFF WHEN YOU SELL YOUR GOLD AND SILVER!

We have been the #1 choice since 1967

Diamonds *Buying 20 pt. and up*

We are particularly interested in larger diamonds of 1 carat and up.

Antique Jewellery

Silverware

Watches

Rolex, Vacheron & Constantine, Patek Philipe, Breitling, Omega, Jaeger LeCoultre, Select Cartier, and many other high-end watches.

As the price of gold reached a record high, the Better Business Bureau warned sellers across B.C. to beware of scammers hoping to rip off people cashing in. Prices for the precious metal have soared over $1,700 an ounce, and BBB President Lynda Pasacreta says that she's seen a corresponding increase in people falling victim to unscrupulous buyers. *"We've noticed that, especially in the online world, people are sending in their gold, and then they're either being disappointed with the price they're being quoted or they're not hearing anything -- [the gold] just kind of disappears,"* she told CTV News. *"The BBB is currently handling 19 complaints against a single gold-buying company in mainland B.C."* There are no complaints about J&M. We are well known to pay the best prices in town.

See the CTV interview online at:
http://www.bullioncoinsandbars.com/article-2011-08-09-bbb.htm

See the Global TV BC segment on record gold prices, including a visit to J&M's Vancouver store at:
http://www.bullioncoinsandbars.com/article-2011-07-18-record.htm

Below is a direct, real comparison of J&M's buying prices with those of a new Vancouver buyer claiming to be the highest buyer

Item/Description	They Pay	J&M Pays
10kt scrap gold, per gram	$17.20	$18.44
14kt scrap gold, per gram	$24.00	$25.90
1 oz. Recognized Gold Bar	$1,583.00	$1,741.33
1 oz. Gold Maple Leaf Coin	$1,670.00	$1,752.20
Sterling Silver, per Gram	$0.58	$0.76
Silver Canadian Coins from 1966 and earlier, per $1 face value	$14.70	$17.31

Gold Coins and Bars

1 oz. modern, sealed bars	$1,741.33
1 oz gold Maple Leaf	$1,752.20
1 oz. Krugerrand	$1,694.83
Sovereign	$396.91

Silver Coins and Bars

1 oz. silver bar	$33.43
10 oz. silver bar	$337.44
100 oz. silver bar	$3,283.10
1 oz. silver Maple Leaf	$33.79

Canada Collector Coins

1948 $1	$900.00 and up
1890H 50¢	$500.00 and up
1875H 25¢	$200.00 and up
1889 10¢	$350.00 and up
1921 5¢	$4,000.00 and up
1923 1¢	$14.00 and up

Silver Coins *Per $1.00 Face Value*

Canada 1968	$10.56
Canada 1967	$13.49
Canada 1966 and earlier	$17.31
USA 1964 and older	$21.01

Scrap Gold *Per gram*

10kt	$18.44
14kt	$25.90
18kt	$33.37

Prices in this ad based on gold @ U$1,713.62 and silver @ U$32.065 and a USD/CAD exchange rate of 1.0241 on December 9, 2011, the day this ad was created.

Voted #1 Jewellery Store in the 2011
***Readers Choice Awards*, Stars of Vancouver !**

Consumer's Choice Award Winner
***Best Local Jeweller* for 9 Years in a Row!**

J&M Coin & Jewellery Ltd.

Vancouver Showroom 127 E. Broadway, Vancouver, BC V5T 1W1 604-876-7181
Metrotown Centre 348 - 4800 Kingsway, Burnaby, BC V5H 4J2 604-439-0753

Plenty of FREE PARKING underneath our Vancouver store, entrance off 8th Avenue

Jewellery and Watch website **www.iorio.com** Jewellery and Coin Auction website **www.collectible-trade.com**
Coins and Collectibles website **www.jandm.com** Precious Metals website **www.bullioncoinsandbars.com**